

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6209

BILL NUMBER: HB 1048

DATE PREPARED: Nov 13, 1998

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: School corporation annual performance report.

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a school corporation to publish an annual notice stating: (1) the Internet address at which the annual performance report of the school corporation is available; and (2) that a copy of the report will be provided at no charge to any person requesting it. It requires a school corporation to provide a copy of the report to the Indiana Department of Education in a format specified by the Department. It also requires the Department to place each report on the Internet and notify each school corporation of the Internet address at which the corporation's report is available.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The current practice for publishing the performance reports is for the Department of Education staff to prepare all charts and explanatory texts and to store them in the Department of Education Internet site. DOE also prepares a hard copy of the report and mails them to all school corporations. School corporations are then required to add information on enrollment in the CORE 40 curriculum and vocational education and any additional explanatory text of customization that they wish. To make these additions, school corporations could either download the portable document format files off of the Internet site and add information using certain software or else make the changes manually. This edited version is then forwarded to the local newspapers to be printed in the newspaper's classified section.

As proposed by this bill, school corporations would examine the report, add any commentary or charts that they wish and then send the edited report back to the Department of Education for publication on the Department of Education's Internet site. Any additional costs to the Department of Education will depend on the extent to which school corporations edit the report and the form in which the report is returned.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Under current law, school corporations are required to publish an

annual performance report in the local newspaper between September 1 and September 15 of each year. 1998 was the first year that school corporations were required to publish this report. School corporations are required to pay for the costs of publishing the performance reports in the local newspapers. Passage of this bill would reduce the costs of publishing an annual performance report in the local newspaper as specified by IC 20-1-21 since they would now only have to publish a notice of the Internet address instead of the entire report. Expenditure savings would depend upon the costs of providing free copies of the report to interested parties.

A sample of 41 school corporations responded to a question from the Indiana School Boards Association about the costs of publishing the annual report in their local newspaper during 1998. The average cost for these school corporations was \$2,522, with costs ranging from a low of \$75 to a high of \$18,000.

School corporations have not appeared to have added significant amounts of information to the reports that were sent to them from the Department of Education. Thirty six of 41 school corporations indicated that they made little or no additions to the performance report before sending them to the local newspapers

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources: Indiana School Boards Association; Steve Grimes, Department of Education; various school corporations responding to an LSA request for information.